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BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.
PUBLISHED DAILY, except on Sundays and public holidays.
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SINGLE COPIES, 5 CENTS.
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Richmond Dispatch.
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1881.
THE CIRCULATION OF THE DISPATCH IS LARGER THAN THE COMBINED CIRCULATION OF ALL THE OTHER DAILY NEWSPAPERS OF THE CITY.
DR. HENSON'S REMEDY FOR NEURALGIA, NERVOUSNESS, SICK-HEADACHE, NERVOUS HEADACHE, DYSPEPTIC HEADACHE, SLEEPLESSNESS, PARALYSIS, AND INDIGESTION, ARE ALL CURABLE BY DR. HENSON'S REMEDY.

WEATHER REPORT.
INDICATIONS FOR TO-DAY.—For the Middle Atlantic States, clearing weather, northerly winds, stationary or lower temperature, and higher pressure.
THERMOMETER YESTERDAY: 6 A. M., 55; 9 A. M., 62; noon, 67; 3 P. M., 69; 6 P. M., 64; midnight, 62.
Mean temperature, 62.

LOCAL MATTERS.
Christmas.
Sunday the peace and good order of the city were all that could have been desired. The weather was beautiful, the congregations at the churches large, the services solemn and impressive, and it seemed that there was real thankfulness to the Divine Father for the gift of his Son and for the good things bestowed upon this land and people.

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NINETEEN MEN KILLED
By the Explosion of Oil on Board of a Steamship at West Point.

A Christmas-Turned into Mourning—A Ship Destroyed, and with it Two White and Seventeen Colored Men: the Cause Unexplained, but Probably the Spontaneous Combustion of Oil, of Which There Were Several Hundred Barrels on Board—Full List of Killed and Wounded—The History of a Famed Ship—Incidents of the Unhappy Affair—Full Details.

About 12 o'clock Monday an explosion occurred on board the steamship West Point, discharging and receiving cargo at the town of West Point, which resulted in the killing of nineteen men—two white and seventeen colored—and the painful injury of several others.

The steamship West Point was the property of the Baltimore, Chesapeake and Richmond Steamboat Company, in which corporation the York River Railroad Company holds a large interest recently passed into the hands of the Richmond and Danville by the terms of the lease. The West Point was a new ship that is to say about \$3,750 worth of the plates of the old Shirley were used in her. All the rest of her material was new. Her hull was of iron and her upper works of wood. She was built for freight traffic; was what is sometimes called a "steamer-schooner," and was of about 600 tons burden, and cost \$67,000.

The Shirley was when she sailed an ill-starred vessel, and had lost went with her belongings. On December 28, 1877, her upper works were damaged by fire in Baltimore to the amount of \$7,000. November 28, 1880, while lying at her wharf at West Point, a mysterious fire broke out in her, burning her to the water's edge and communicating the flames to the wharf property, with great loss to the railroad company, shippers, and others. When they came to overhaul her it was found that it was easier to construct a new ship than to rebuild her, and accordingly that was resolved upon. The plates of the old ship were found to be serviceable were utilized; all the other material was discarded. The customs authorities recognized her as a new ship and allowed her a new register under the name of West Point.

The West Point arrived from Baltimore at the town of West Point on Sunday. That day her cargo was not touched. It consisted of general merchandise and 500 barrels of oil. Monday the stevedores—resigning the delights of the holiday—under the direction of Mr. Emanuel S. Bradford, were put aboard the ship and the work of discharging commenced. The men who were working at the wharf property, while nearly the whole town was in full enjoyment of the idleness and hilarity of the Christmas season. The motion of the donkey-engine and the rattling of pulley and cordage, and the songs of the negroes trucking cotton and sugar, mingled with the sound of firecrackers and the screech of tin horns in the town. Without a sign, with a suddenness perfectly appalling, there was an explosion—not very loud, it seemed, and yet it was heard four miles off—and a large part of the starboard side of the ship was blown into the water, followed by a great body of flame springing from the hold to the rigging.

There was a brief period of consternation and inactivity. Then the fire-bell on the wharf was rung; men who had jumped into or been thrown into the water began appealing for help, and a few minutes later the ship was seen to be a mass of flames. Those on shore got off all the wounded they could find on the ship, but as they were with flame and smoke, then seeing that their help could not avail those in the hold, they cut loose the ship to save the wharves from destruction.

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A Fatal Affray.
Monday evening about 7 o'clock a difficulty occurred at the corner of Seventh and Louisiana streets, between Martin Fall and William J. Champion, resulting in the death of the latter. The affair is shrouded somewhat in mystery, and meagre facts only could be obtained yesterday.

The following is all that could be gathered: Fall, it seems, while walking out with some ladies met Champion, who was considerably under the influence of liquor. Champion drew a pistol and brandished it threateningly in their presence, accompanying his gestures with language which implied an intention of using the weapon. The ladies quickly left, giving place at the same time of affray. It is not positively known whether Fall saw them or whether he covered their retreat by making an attack at once upon Champion; but whether this be so or not, it is true that an altercation followed, and that in it Champion met his death at the hands of Fall, adding a fatal climax to the list of Christmas accidents. The difficulty occurred about 7 o'clock, and Champion lingered during the night in an unconscious condition, dying about 10 o'clock yesterday morning. He bore bruises and cuts about the face, throat, arms, and body, and, besides, had his skull fractured just above the left eye and near the top of the head. It is not known what sort of weapon was used to inflict the wounds, but it is claimed by Fall that he did not use a knife. Several parties witnessed the affray, but they are reticent as to details, and the real facts in the case will not be drawn out, perhaps, until the coroner's inquest is held. Coroner Taylor viewed the body yesterday afternoon, and had witnesses and jurors summoned to attend the inquest this morning at 11 o'clock. A post-mortem examination will precede the inquest. Fall was arrested by Sergeant Whitlock Monday night about 9 o'clock. In the Police Court yesterday his examination was postponed until Friday to await the action of the coroner's jury.

The deceased was about twenty-seven years of age, and leaves a wife and two children. He was regarded by those who knew him as a quiet, inoffensive man. He had been employed by the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company as a brakeman on the eastern division of the Chesapeake and Ohio railway.

DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN CITIZEN.
Yesterday morning at 5 o'clock Mr. James Brooks, a prominent citizen of this city, died at his home in the Exchange Hotel. Mr. Brooks was a native of New York, and had been in this city for many years. He was a member of the City Council, and had been a prominent figure in the business community. He was a man of great energy and ability, and had been a successful businessman. He was a member of the City Council, and had been a prominent figure in the business community. He was a man of great energy and ability, and had been a successful businessman.

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Richmond Dispatch.
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1881.
THE CIRCULATION OF THE DISPATCH IS LARGER THAN THE COMBINED CIRCULATION OF ALL THE OTHER DAILY NEWSPAPERS OF THE CITY.
DR. HENSON'S REMEDY FOR NEURALGIA, NERVOUSNESS, SICK-HEADACHE, NERVOUS HEADACHE, DYSPEPTIC HEADACHE, SLEEPLESSNESS, PARALYSIS, AND INDIGESTION, ARE ALL CURABLE BY DR. HENSON'S REMEDY.

WEATHER REPORT.
INDICATIONS FOR TO-DAY.—For the Middle Atlantic States, clearing weather, northerly winds, stationary or lower temperature, and higher pressure.
THERMOMETER YESTERDAY: 6 A. M., 55; 9 A. M., 62; noon, 67; 3 P. M., 69; 6 P. M., 64; midnight, 62.
Mean temperature, 62.

LOCAL MATTERS.
Christmas.
Sunday the peace and good order of the city were all that could have been desired. The weather was beautiful, the congregations at the churches large, the services solemn and impressive, and it seemed that there was real thankfulness to the Divine Father for the gift of his Son and for the good things bestowed upon this land and people.

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